

This evening the Water Resources Development Act, H.R. 1495, passed with a bipartisan amendment offered by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Budget Committee and new Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming. Congressman Blumenauer's Corps Modernization Amendment is cosponsored by Congressman Peter Welch (D-VT) and Congressman Tom Petri (R-WI). The Water Resources Development Act contains funding for vital Oregon programs.

"It is past time that we reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act and bring the standards under which the Army Corps of Engineers operates into the 21st Century," said Congressman Blumenauer. "Today we funded vital Oregon programs, including improvements to Gresham's Johnson Creek and state-wide ecosystem restoration and salmon recovery. We also modernized the Principles and Guidelines that the Corps uses to tackle water projects, and which have not been changed since 1983. With these updates, I am confident the Corps will be able to move towards developing more environmentally, fiscally and structurally sound projects."

The Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for 1,500 federal water resources projects in the United States. Recent studies by the National Academy of Sciences, the Government Accountability Office, the Pentagon, and others have found that many of these projects have been economically and environmentally questionable.

The Water Resources Development Act authorizes nearly \$14 billion in the construction or studies of water projects by the Army Corps of Engineers. It also authorizes hurricane recovery activities along the Gulf Coast, estimated to cost \$3 billion. Congressman Blumenauer's Corps Modernization Amendment updates the Principles and Guidelines under which the Army Corps of Engineers operates, which has not been done since 1983. These Principles and Guidelines are critical in developing and implementing sound projects to save taxpayer dollars and address environmental and other national concerns.